



Speech By  
**Joan Pease**


**MEMBER FOR LYTTON**

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Record of Proceedings, 30 March 2022

## ADJOURNMENT

### Organ Donation, Gift of Life Walk

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (6.43 pm): I begin by thanking the Speaker of the House for allowing me to wear this T-shirt in the chamber tonight because I know that it is not the normal garb that we would wear in the parliament. Last year Queenslanders rallied behind organ and tissue donations, with a record surge in people registering with the Australian Organ Donor Register. Friend of mine and Wynnum resident Margie Kruger knows all about the importance of registering to be an organ donor. Sadly, in 2007 Margie's partner Debbie passed away while waiting for a lung transplant. Interestingly enough, whilst Debbie was waiting for her lung donation for herself, she was also registered as an organ donor and was able to give the gift of sight through an eye donation when she passed away. Ever since, Margie has been a strong advocate for raising awareness around organ and tissue donation and tomorrow morning she will be hosting a Gift of Life walk in Manly.

The Gift of Life walk is about raising awareness for organ donation. Unfortunately I will not be able to be there because I will be in parliament, but that is why I wanted to talk about it tonight and wear this T-shirt. It is really important to talk about waiting for lifesaving transplants and to ask members of the community to consider registering on the organ donor register, and tomorrow on the walk there will be people waiting for a transplant. I know that these conversations can be sometimes very difficult because we do not want to look at our own mortality, but it will be a chance for my community and also the broader community to have a walk and a chat about this really important issue not just for my community but for all Australians.

Last year 86 Queenslanders became organ donors just like Debbie and that saved the lives of 253 Australians. What an amazing legacy to leave! Whilst COVID has seen a little bit of a decline in the number of transplant recipients, still 62 per cent of Queenslanders consented to organ donation last year. Some 419 Queenslanders donated their eyes and 102 donated tissue, providing life-changing procedures to recipients. Almost 40,000 Queenslanders registered as potential organ donors in 2020 and there are now 1.2 million Queenslanders on the Australian Organ Donor Register, or the AODR. Interestingly, seven in 10 Queenslanders support donation but less than one in three are actually registered. We need to close this gap, so if you want to support organ donation please register. Further, nine out of 10 families proceed with the donation once their loved one is registered. However, this drops to four out of 10 when the family does not know of their loved one's wishes. My message today is to register and let your loved ones know what your choices are at end of life.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Thank you, member, for being a champion for such an important issue.